

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1-9 have been amended. Claims 10-20 have been added. No new matter has been added. The rejections of Claims 1 and 3 and objections to Claims 2 and 4-9 are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments and following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-9 are objected to because of informalities. In particular, the Examiner writes in part:

In claim 1, it appears that the limitation of "a holder hole forming member made of a second material filled in the opening substantially without extending outside the opening is not directly contact with the opening of the base plate" is inaccurate because there is a missing film formed over an inner circumferential surface of the opening before the holder hole forming member filled in that opening.

In claims 5-6, "said film" has no antecedent basis. . . .

In claim 9, it is unclear what "a stress relieving opening" represents. . . .

Applicant submits that claim 1 only recites "a holder hole forming member made of a second material filled in the opening substantially without extending outside said opening" and does not include "is not directly contact with the opening of the base plate" as written by the Examiner. Applicant submits that claim 1 is clear and definite and asks the Examiner for further clarification regarding his objection if the claim remains objectionable.

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend from Claim 4.

Regarding Claim 9, a "stress relieving opening" relates to opening 12 in FIG. 1 in one embodiment, although the claim is not limited to the embodiments described in the specification.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the claim objections be withdrawn.

Title Objection

The title has been amended to be more descriptive.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102Byrnes et al.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Byrnes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,423,376 hereinafter "Byrnes").

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner writes in part:

Byrnes et al disclose a contact probe assembly as shown in figures 1-2 having a base plate member (38) made of a first material and provided with an opening therein, a holder hole forming member (36 or 40) made of second material filled in the opening without extending outside the opening and a plurality of holder holes being passed across a thickness of the holder hole forming member each [for] receiving a contact unit (16).

However, Byrnes discloses upper and lower support elements 36 and 40 which have apertures receiving the ends of probe elements and a means to simultaneously rotate the probe elements (Byrnes, Abstract, FIGS. 1-5). Thus, Byrnes only teaches upper and lower support elements that cover upper and lower ends of an opening (Byrnes, FIGS. 1-3) and does not disclose or suggest a holder hole forming member 36 or 40 which is filled in the opening through the base plate member and instead teaches away from such a feature since the probe elements would then not be able to rotate.

In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites "a base plate member made of a first material and provided with an opening therethrough; and a holder hole forming member made of a second material and filled in said opening substantially without extending outside said opening." Accordingly, because Byrnes does not disclose or suggest all the limitations of Claim 1, Claim 1 is patentable over Byrnes.

Schadwill

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schadwill (U.S. Patent No. 4,322,682).

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner writes in part:

Schadwill discloses a contact probe assembly as shown in figures 2-3 having a base plate member (22) made of a first material and provided with an opening therein, a holder hole forming member (10) made of second material filled in the opening without extending outside the opening and a plurality of holder holes being passed across a thickness of the holder hole forming member each [for] receiving a contact unit (30).

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However, Schadwill only discloses a programming plate 10 that covers an upper portion of an opening 24 (Schadwill, FIGS. 2 and 6) and does not disclose or suggest a holder hole forming member 10 which is filled in the opening through the base plate member

In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites "a base plate member made of a first material and provided with an opening therethrough; and a holder hole forming member made of a second material and filled in said opening substantially without extending outside said opening." Accordingly, because Schadwill does not disclose or suggest all the limitations of Claim 1, Claim 1 is patentable over Schadwill.

Claim 3 is dependent on Claim 1 and contains additional limitations that further distinguish it from Schadwill. Therefore, Claim 3 is allowable over Schadwill for at least the same reasons provided above with respect to Claim 1.

The Examiner has not discussed Claims 2 and 4-9 with respect to the cited references and unless otherwise notified, Applicants will assume that Claims 2 and 4-9 are allowable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

New Claims

Claims 10-20 have been added.

Claim 10 recites "a base plate member made of a first material and provided with an opening therethrough; and a holder hole forming member made of a second material and filled in said opening substantially without extending outside said opening" in addition to other elements. For similar reasons as provided above, Claim 10 is allowable over Byrnes and Schadwill, alone or in combination.

Claim 18 also recites "a base plate member made of a first material and provided with an opening therethrough; and a holder hole forming member made of a second material and filled in said opening substantially without extending outside said opening" in addition to other elements. For similar reasons as provided above, Claim 18 is allowable over Byrnes and Schadwill, alone or in combination.

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Claims 11-17 and 19-20 are dependent on Claims 10 and 18, respectively, and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from Byrnes and Schadwill, alone or in combination. Therefore, Claims 11-17 and 19-20 are allowable over Byrnes and Schadwill, alone or in combination, for at least the same reasons provided above for Claims 10 and 18, respectively.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe pending Claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of the Application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is hereby requested to telephone Applicant's Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Fax No. 571-273-8300 on the date stated below..

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Respectfully submitted,

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